

Then, when these Gradual-Attainers generate, for instance, the third supramundane uninterrupted path that irrevocably eliminates the fourth mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm and the third type of supramundane innate afflictions of the Desire, Form and Formless Realms they become again *approachers to the result of once-returner* (as well as *special abiders in the result of stream-enterer*).

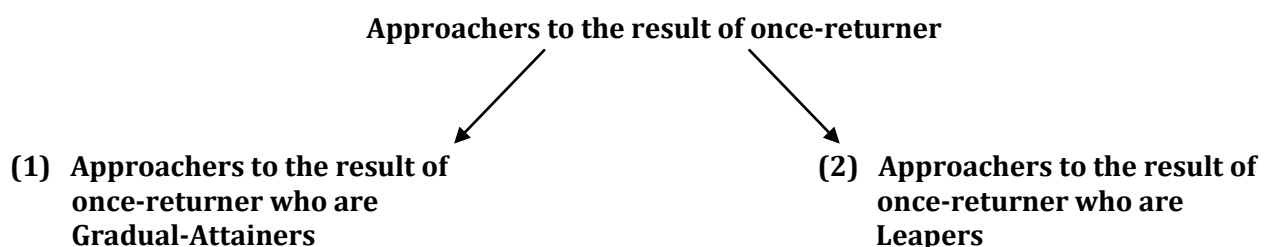
After alternating between being *approachers to the result of once-returner* and *simple abiders in the result of stream-enterer*, these Gradual-Attainers become *approachers to the result of once-returner* for the last time when they generate, for instance, the fifth supramundane uninterrupted path that irrevocably eliminates the sixth type of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm and the fifth type of supramundane innate afflictions of the Desire, Form, and Formless Realm. While they abide on that uninterrupted path, they are *approachers to the result of once-returner* for the last time because a moment later they attain the fifth supramundane *path of release* that achieves the irrevocable cessation of the sixth type of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm (as well as of the fifth type of supramundane innate afflictions of the Desire, Form, and Formless Realms). The first moment of attaining the cessation of the sixth type of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm - without at that moment also achieving the cessation of the sixth type of supramundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm - marks the first moment of the result of once-returner. Therefore, from that moment onwards Gradual-Attainers are *abiders in the result of once-returner* and can no longer become *approachers to the result of once-returner*. Instead, the next time they generate an uninterrupted path that temporarily or irrevocably eliminates any of the remaining innate afflictions, they become *approachers to the result of non-returner*.

## 2) Approachers to the result of once-returner who are Leapers

Approachers to the result of once-returner who are Leapers (*'bras bu thod rgal ba'i phyir 'ong zhugs pa*) are Hinayana Aryas who abide on the uninterrupted path of the path of seeing and temporarily eliminated the sixth (but not the ninth) type of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm prior to reaching the path of seeing with a mundane uninterrupted path of the preparatory stage of the first concentration. Hence, while they abide on the uninterrupted path of the path of seeing, they are *approachers to the result of once-returner who are Leapers*. They are not approachers to the result of stream-enterer because, as mentioned above, approachers to the result of stream-enterer are characterized by being Hinayana Aryas on the uninterrupted path of the path of seeing who did not temporarily eliminate the sixth type of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm prior to reaching the path of seeing.

Hinayana Aryas on the uninterrupted path of the path of seeing who temporarily eliminated the sixth (but not the ninth) type of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm prior to the path of seeing remain approachers to the result of once-returner for as long as they do not achieve the path of release of the path of seeing. The moment they attain the path of release of the path of seeing, they become *abiders in the result of once-returner*.

*Approachers to the result of once-returner who are Leapers* are also called 'approachers to the result of once-returner who previously separated from attachment' (*chags bral sngon song gi phyir 'ong zhugs pa*). They are called '*approachers to the result of once-returner who are Leapers*' because they are approachers to the result of once-returner who leap - or more literally - bypass the result of stream-enterer. They are called '*approachers to the result of once-returner who previously separated from attachment*' because they temporarily eliminated the sixth type of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm, such as the sixth type of mundane innate attachment to the Desire Realm, prior to reaching the path of seeing.



## ABIDERS IN THE RESULT OF ONCE-RETURNER

Once-returners and *abiders in the result of once-returner* are equivalent. As mentioned above, they are called 'once-returners' because in general they return, that is, they are reborn in the Desire Realm only once before they achieve the result of foe-destroyer (although they may also take birth in the Form or Formless Realm after their last rebirth in the Desire Realm and before their attainment of self-liberation). However, some Hinayana Aryas, after they have attained the result of once-returner, may take two more rebirths in the Desire Realm: one rebirth as human and one rebirth as a celestial being of the Desire Realm. But they are once-returners nonetheless because, as mentioned before, rebirth as a human and rebirth as a celestial being of the Desire Realm are of a similar type.

Also, whoever is a once-returner is not necessarily reborn in the Desire Realm once again, for there are once-returners who in one lifetime attain both the result of once-returner *and* the result of non-returner.

Once-returners are Hinayana Aryas who achieve the irrevocable cessation of the three fetters (i.e. intellectually acquired afflictive obstructions) as well as the temporary or irrevocable cessation of the sixth type of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm, without also achieving the cessation of the sixth type of supramundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm at the moment of attaining the *latter* cessation (of the mundane ones).

From the perspective of their mental faculties, abiders in the result of once-returner can be classified into:

- 1) Abiders in the result of once-returner who are believers-by-faith
- 2) Abiders in the result of once-returner who are attainers-by-seeing

From the perspective of attaining results, they can be categorized into:

- 1) Abiders in the result of once-returner who are Gradual-Attainers
- 2) Abiders in the result of once-returner who are Leapers

### 1) *Abiders in the result of once-returner who are Gradual-Attainers*

Abiders in the result of once-returner who are Gradual-Attainers ('*bras bu rim gyis pa'i phyir 'ong 'bras gnas*) and abiders in the result of once-returner who previously were stream-enterers are equivalent.

*Abiders in the result of once-returner who are Gradual-Attainers* are Hinayana Aryas who first attain the cessation of the three fetters (intellectually acquired afflictive obstructions) while they are abiders in the result of stream-enterer. Thereafter they attain the temporary or irrevocable cessation of the sixth type of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm without also achieving the irrevocable cessation the sixth type of supramundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm at that time. Attaining the temporary or irrevocable cessation of the sixth type of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm marks their becoming once-returners.

Therefore, Gradual-Attainers newly attain the result of once-returner the moment they achieve the temporary or irrevocable cessation of the sixth type of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm. And they remain once-returners for as long as they do not become non-returners upon achieving the temporary or irrevocable cessation of the ninth type of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm.

### 2) *Abiders in the result of once-returner who are Leapers*

Abiders in the result of once-returner who are Leapers ('*bras bu thod rgal ba'i phyir 'ong 'bras gnas*) and abiders in the result of once-returner who previously were not stream-enterers are equivalent. Likewise, *abiders in the result of once-returner who are Leapers* and *abiders in the result of once-returner who previously separated from attachment* are equivalent.

Abiders in the result of once-returners who are Leapers are Hinayana Aryas who eliminated the sixth (but not the ninth) type of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm prior to reaching the path of seeing (and *thus* to becoming Hinayana Aryas). Then they enter the uninterrupted path of the Hinayana path of seeing and eliminate the three fetters, as approachers to the result of once-returners.

The moment they attain the cessation of the three fetters they become *abiders in the result of once-returner who are Leapers*.